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### THE VICE PRESIDENT WASHINGTON

#### **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Members of the Competitiveness Council

FROM: THE VICE PRESIDENT

DATE: September 12, 1989

I am pleased to announce that, effective immediately, Larry Lindsey, Associate Director for Domestic Economic Policy of the Office of Policy Development, will serve as Executive Director of the Council on Competitiveness. Larry will manage the policy review and staff functions of the Council; the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (Jay Plager) will serve as executive director of the Council's regulatory oversight activities. Diane Weinstein will continue as Counsel to the Competitiveness Council. Members of my Domestic Policy staff under Larry's direction, and Diane, will continue to work with your representatives on the business of the Council.

This arrangement, under the overall direction of my Chief of Staff, William Kristol, should facilitate coordination of Council on Competitiveness activities with the overall Administration policy making processes, and should enable the Council to move ahead, after its good start, to play a significant role in advancing the President's competitiveness agenda. I look forward to continuing to work with you to make that happen.

cc: White House Senior Staff
Department and Agency Heads

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### OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT WASHINGTON

### JUL 1 1 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR ATTACHED DISTRIBUTION LIST

FROM:

WILLIAM KRISTOL

CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE VICE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Recommendations to the Council on Competitiveness

As you may know, President Bush has asked Vice President Quayle to chair the interagency Council on Competitiveness. Additional members of the Council are the Secretary of the Treasury (as Chairman of the Economic Policy Council), the Attorney General (as Chairman of the Domestic Policy Council), the Secretary of Commerce, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors, and the Chief of Staff to the President.

At the initial meeting, the Council reaffirmed its role in the regulatory review process pursuant to Executive Orders 12291 and 12498. The Council will continue to perform the function, previously performed by the Task Force on Regulatory Relief, of reviewing Federal regulations having a significant impact on national competitiveness.

To help in the Council's broader policy coordination function, several members of the Council suggested that government agencies should be solicited for suggestions of issues that may benefit from the Council's attention. While not all of the issues that may be suggested can be addressed immediately, compiling a list of such issues and of information relative to their significance for U.S. competitiveness will enable the Council to begin to develop short- and long-term priorities for Administration action.

For purposes of organization, we have grouped the issues that arise under the rubric of competitiveness into four areas. We welcome your comments on these areas in general, but particularly would appreciate your specific suggestions of issues for the Council to consider in each or any of these areas:

1. Preserving Free Enterprise. Free enterprise has made the United States the most prosperous nation in the world.



Accordingly, the Council on Competitiveness may consider policies on mergers and acquisitions, antitrust limits on mergers and joint ventures, and bankruptcy law. In addition, the Council may consider product liability law, health and safety, environmental, transportation, and communications regulation, foreign trade law, intellectual property rights, risk assessment, market- and incentive-based approaches to regulation, and other statutory and regulatory policies affecting enterprise and entrepreneurship.

- 2. Access to Capital. The availability of capital being critical to economic growth, the Council may consider policies that would free the flow of investment capital to American business, such as tax policies, including the capital gains tax rate. Also, banking and financial industry reform, securities and commodity trading regulations, saving incentives, foreign investment, accounting standards and practices may be considered.
- 3. Bringing Science to Market. To maintain U.S. primacy in emerging industries, the nation must do a better job of developing commercial applications for scientific innovations. The Council may examine policies toward biotechnology, public-private research and production consortia, intellectual property rights approval or protection, licensing of new products, research and experimentation tax credits, government technology transfer and procurement, and federal funding of research and development.
- 4. Development of Human Resources. To improve the nation's competitiveness, the U.S. must continue to have the most productive work force in the world. The Council may examine policies affecting America's education system, particularly instruction in such disciplines as math, science, and computers. In addition, the Council may review labor, health, welfare, immigration, and other policies affecting the ability of the American work force to maintain high quality and productivity and to adapt to new industrial and commercial advances.

It would be helpful to receive your assessment of critical problems in competitiveness arranged -- if you think it helpful -- into these four areas using the following format:

<u>Format</u>: Set out the problems the United States faces in improving our international competitiveness. For each problem, to the extent possible:

- 1. Precisely identify the problem.
- 2. Explain how the problem negatively affects U.S. competitiveness.
- 3. Provide examples of the problem.

- 4. Describe the scope of the problem. Set out budgetary and economic costs (direct and indirect), if quantifiable. If possible, compare the situation in the U.S. with other countries.
- 5. Identify the most attractive possible solutions. For each solution, state:
  - a. Whether the problem can be addressed through private sector action.
  - b. Whether it requires government action. If so, state what type (i.e., administrative, legislative, regulatory, or government leadership and advocacy).
  - c. The budgetary impact (direct and indirect).
  - d. The impact on the economy (direct and indirect).
  - e. Other effects, including indirect or secondary effects (positive or negative).
  - f. The background on similar previous proposals to address the problem.
- 6. Assess prospects for success for such proposals.

I would appreciate a response to this memorandum by August 1, 1989. Staff questions should be referred to Diane Weinstein, Counsel to the Council (456-2816).

cc: Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs

### DISTRIBUTION LIST

#### Council Members:

The Honorable Nicholas F. Brady The Secretary of the Treasury Chairman Pro Tempore of the Economic Policy Council

The Honorable Robert A. Mosbacher Secretary of Commerce

The Honorable Richard Darman Director Office of Management and Budget The Honorable Richard Thornburgh Attorney General Chairman Pro Tempore of the Domestic Policy Council

The Honorable John Sununu Chief of Staff to the President

The Honorable Michael J. Boskin Chairman Council of Economic Advisors

#### Departments, Agencies, Boards, and Commissions:

The Honorable James A. Baker, III Secretary of State

The Honorable Manuel Lujan, Jr. Secretary of the Interior

The Honorable Elizabeth H. Dole Secretary of Labor

The Honorable Louis W. Sullivan Secretary of Health and Human Services

The Honorable Samuel K. Skinner Secretary of Transportation

The Honorable Edward J. Derwinski Secretary of Veterans Affairs

The Honorable William Webster

Director

Central Intelligence Agency

The Honorable William Bennett Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy

The Honorable David Q. Bates, Jr. Assistant to the President and Secretary to the Cabinet

The Honorable Erich Bloch Director National Science Foundation The Honorable Richard Cheney Secretary of Defense

The Honorable Clayton K. Yeutter Secretary of Agriculture

The Honorable Lauro Cavazos Secretary of Education

The Honorable Jack F. Kemp Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

The Honorable James D. Watkins Secretary of Energy

The Honorable Carla Hills United States Trade Representative

The Honorable Brent Scowcroft Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

Dr. Allan Bromley Science Advisor to the President

The Honorable Roger Porter Assistant to the President for Economic and Domestic Policy

Rear Admiral Richard H. Truly Administrator National Aeronautics and Space Administration The Honorable Susan S. Engeleiter Administrator Small Business Administration

The Honorable William K. Reilly Administrator Environmental Protection Agency

The Honorable Alan Greenspan Chairman Federal Reserve Board

The Honorable Wendy L. Gramm Chairman, Commodity Futures Trading Commission

The Honorable Dennis R. Patrick Chairman Federal Communications Commission

The Honorable Anne E. Brunsdale Chairman, United States International Trade Commission

The Honorable Anne Graham Acting Chairman, Consumer Product Safety Commission

The Honorable Kenneth Carr Chairman Nuclear Regulatory Commission Mr. James M. Stephens Chairman National Labor Relations Board

The Honorable Frank Young Administrator Food and Drug Administration

The Honorable L. William Seidman Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

The Honorable David S. Ruder Chairman Securities and Exchange Commission

The Honorable Daniel Oliver Chairman Federal Trade Commission

The Honorable Heather Gradison Chairman Interstate Commerce Commission

The Honorable Martha O. Hesse Chairman, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

The Honorable William F. Ryan Acting President and Chairman Export-Import Bank